



SHOWCASE 95

# SUPergirl

12  
OF TWELVE

DECEMBER  
05 \$2.95  
CAN \$4.25



MAITRESSE THE SHADE™



THEY  
COME FROM  
ALL OVER THE  
CAROLINAS JUST  
TO CATCH A GLIMPSE  
OF HER - A GOLDEN-  
HAIRRED VISION OF  
RED AND  
BLUE.

VISITING  
TOWN FOR ONLY  
A WEEK, SHE'S ALL  
THE TALK OF  
CHARLOTTE, FROM  
DAVIDSON TO  
UNION CITY.

THIS IS  
CHANNEL NINE'S  
CYNTHIA DRUM,  
BRINGING YOU LIVE,  
FIRST-ON-THE-SCENE  
COVERAGE OF ANOTHER  
SPECTACULAR SIGHTING  
OF THE SO-CALLED  
MAIDEN OF STEEL.  
CHARLOTTE'S OWN-

# SUPERRGIRL

AWW,  
MAN, WHEN  
THAT CABLE  
SNAPPED, I JUST  
KNEW WE  
WERE BUG  
JUICE!

HANG  
TIGHT, GUYS.  
YOU'RE  
NOT DOWN  
YET.

## RUST NEVER SLEEPS

story: Charles Moore  
pencils: Phil Jimenez  
inks: Howard Shum  
color: Dave Grafe  
letters: Ken Bruzenak  
asst. editor: Chris Duffy  
editor: Frank Pittarese

THIS  
CONSTRUCTION  
SITE IS LIKE  
MANY AROUND  
THE CITY...

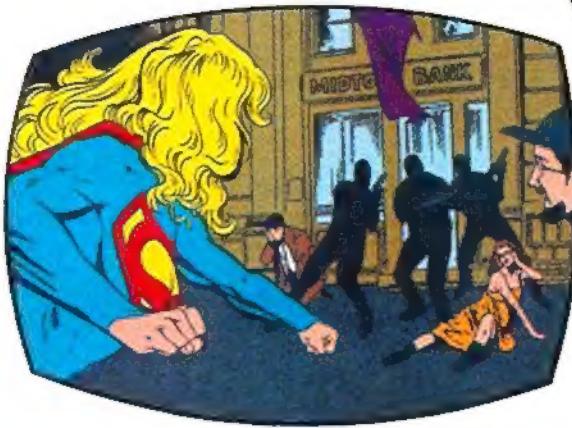
--EVIDENCE OF CHARLOTTE'S RECOVERY FROM THE ATTACK SEVERAL WEEKS AGO BY THE ALIEN ENTITY KNOWN ONLY AS LORD DICHON.

IT WAS DURING SUPERGIRL'S FIRST VISIT THAT SHE STOPPED THE ALIEN'S DESTRUCTIVE BID TO STRIP-MINE THE COLLEGE STREET BUSINESS DISTRICT.

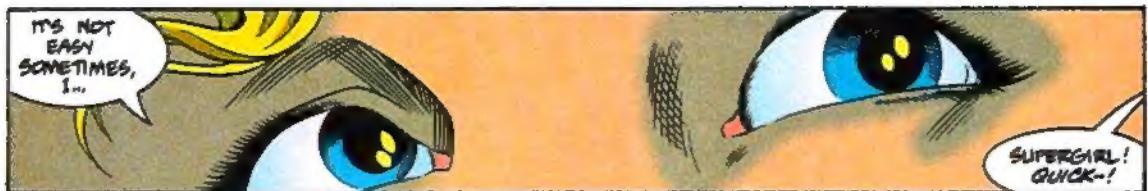
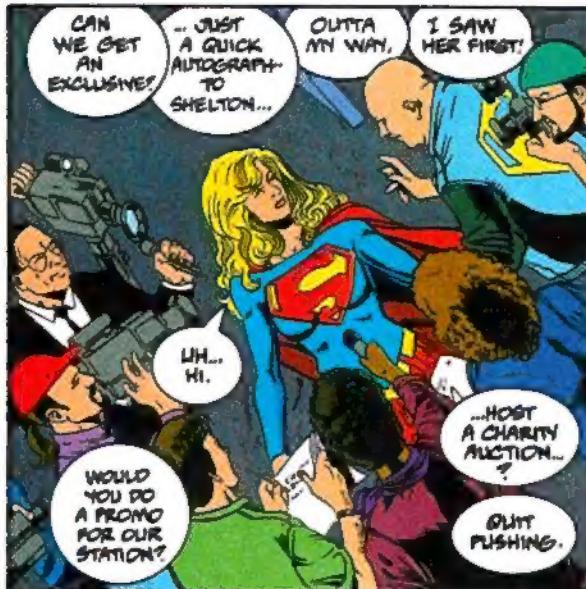


SINCE RETURNING EARLIER THIS WEEK, SUPERGIRL HAS BEEN ON A NON-STOP HEROIC SPREE...

...FIGHTING EVERYTHING FROM HIGH-ROUSE FIRES TO BANK ROBBERIES.



AND ALTHOUGH SOME CRITICS DEBATE WHETHER SUPERGIRL HAS BROUGHT TROUBLE WITH HER, ONE THING IS CERTAIN...



HI.  
WE'VE GOT  
A PROBLEM!  
GEEZ! DON'T YOU  
EVER SLEEP?  
YOU LOOK  
TERRIBLE!

UH,  
SORRY.  
DUMB THING  
TO SAY,  
HUH?



I PROMISE,  
HITCH, IF  
YOU'RE  
WASTING MY  
TIME...

TESTY,  
TESTY. YOU DO NEED  
REST. NO OFFENSE,  
SUPergirl. BUT IT'S  
MAKING ME TIRED SEE-  
ING YOU ON THE LOCAL  
NEWS 24-7.

NOT  
THAT I'M  
PRETENDING  
TO KNOW  
YOU THAT  
WELL...

WHICH  
YOU  
DON'T.

BUT  
EVERYBODY NEEDS  
SOME DOWN TIME. YOU  
SHOULDN'T LET THE  
FOLKS AROUND HERE  
TAKE ADVANTAGE  
OF YOU.

BUT  
I LIKE  
WHAT I  
DO.

MAYBE  
IT'S JUST THE  
S' ON MY CHEST,  
BUT THE PEOPLE  
HERE REALLY SEEM  
TO LIKE...ME.

SEE?  
YOU'RE  
DOZING  
OFF!

AND  
LOOK AT THOSE  
EYES! NEVER  
THOUGHT  
SHAPE-  
CHANGERS  
GOT  
CROW'S FEET!

IT'S  
A LONG  
WAY  
DOWN,  
HITCH.

HE  
DOESN'T  
UNDERSTAND.  
HOW COULD  
HE?

FOR THE  
FIRST TIME, I  
HAVE A PLACE  
WHERE I CAN  
ESTABLISH MYSELF  
OUTSIDE OF CLARK'S  
SHADOW.

YOU  
WOULDN'T.  
TRY  
ME.

"BELIEVE ME, HITCH,  
YOU WOULDN'T WANT  
TO SEE ME ANGRY."

C'MON,  
MOVE  
IT!

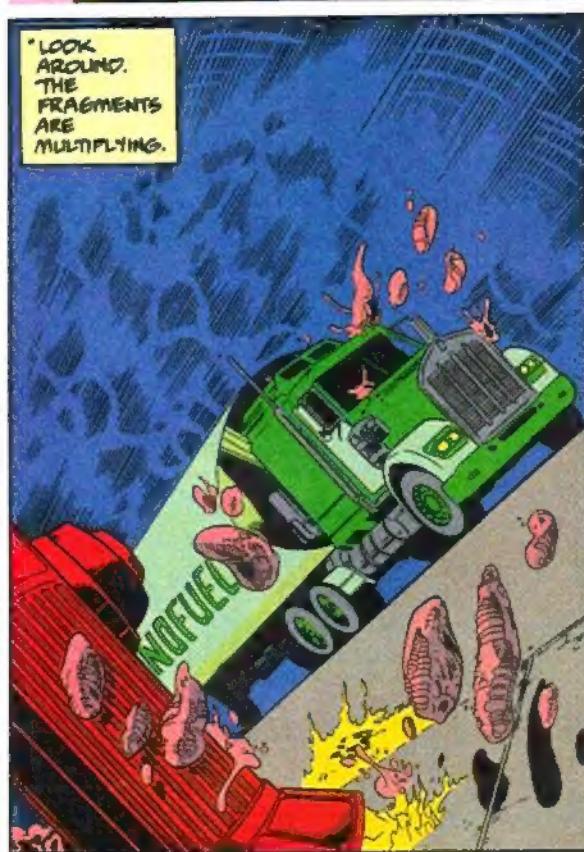
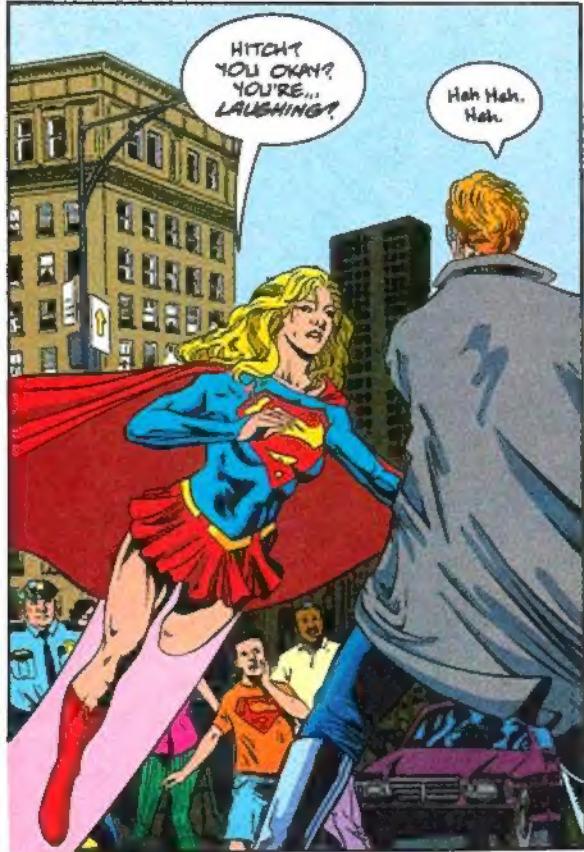
WHAT!  
OUR GUNS  
ARE  
DOWN  
THERE!

WERE  
DOWN  
THERE.  
NOTHIN' WE  
CAN DO  
FOR 'EM  
NOW.

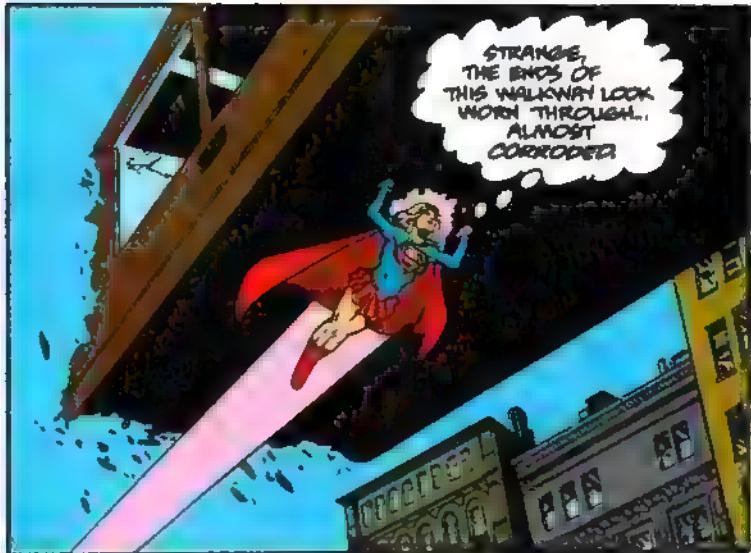


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# DOOM!

ALL THESE  
PEOPLE! HOW  
AM I GOING  
TO-

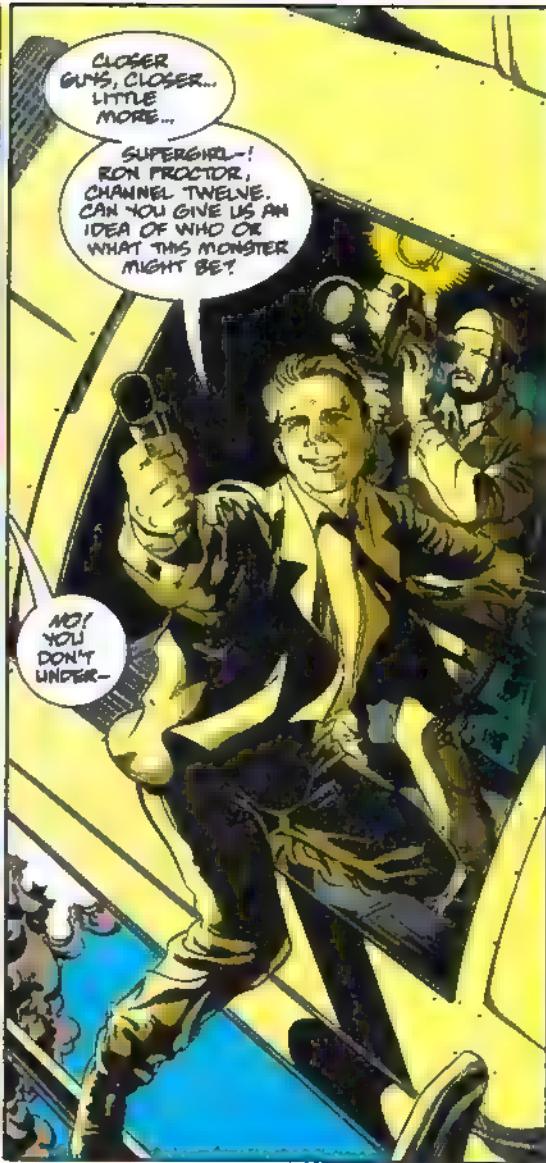
# SHOOOMP!

AND  
GET THIS  
IN THE  
ATMOSPHERE,  
AWAY FROM  
ALL THE  
CROWDS.

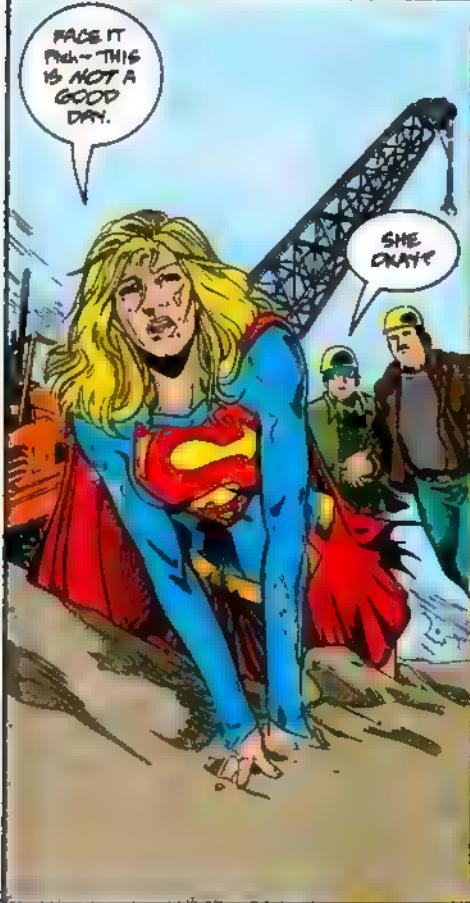
CONTAIN  
THE  
EXPLOSION.

FEELS  
LIKE DOOMSDAY'S  
BEEN LET LOOSE IN  
MY SKULL, BUT I'VE  
GOT TO MAINTAIN  
THIS PSY-SHIELD.

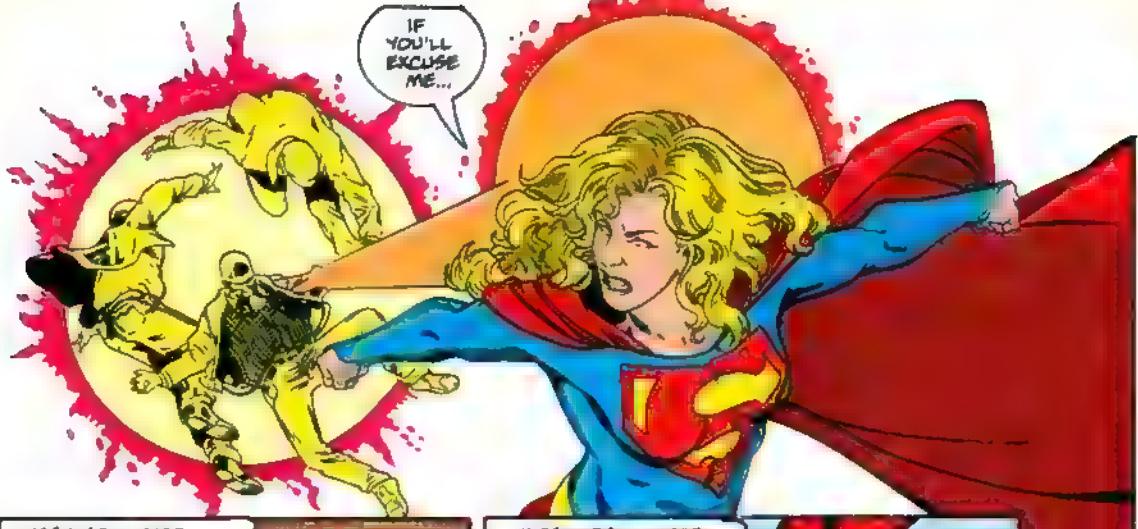
THIS IS  
THE CHANNEL  
FOUR SKYCAM  
WITH LIVE  
COVERAGE OF  
"RAMPAGE '95!"







IF  
YOU'LL  
EXCUSE  
ME....



EASY NOW. NEED  
TO REMEMBER THEY'RE  
NOT USED TO  
SITUATIONS LIKE  
THIS.



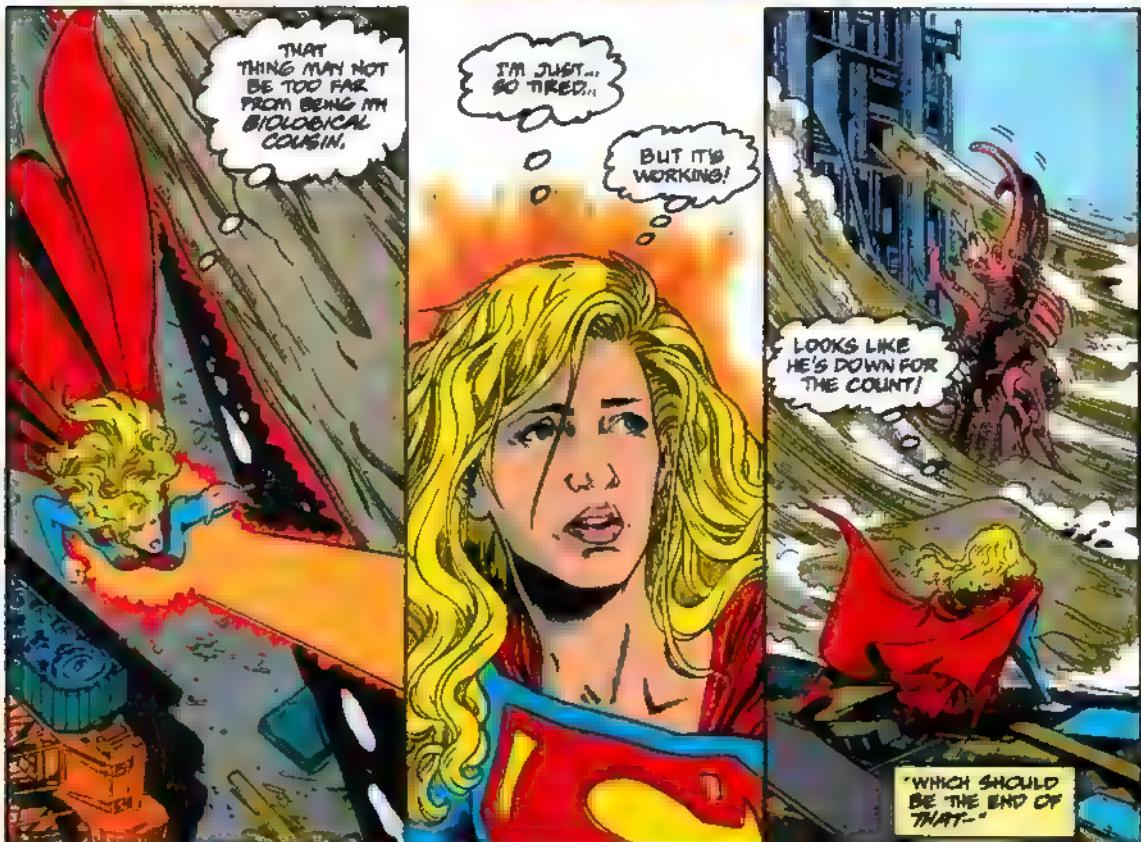
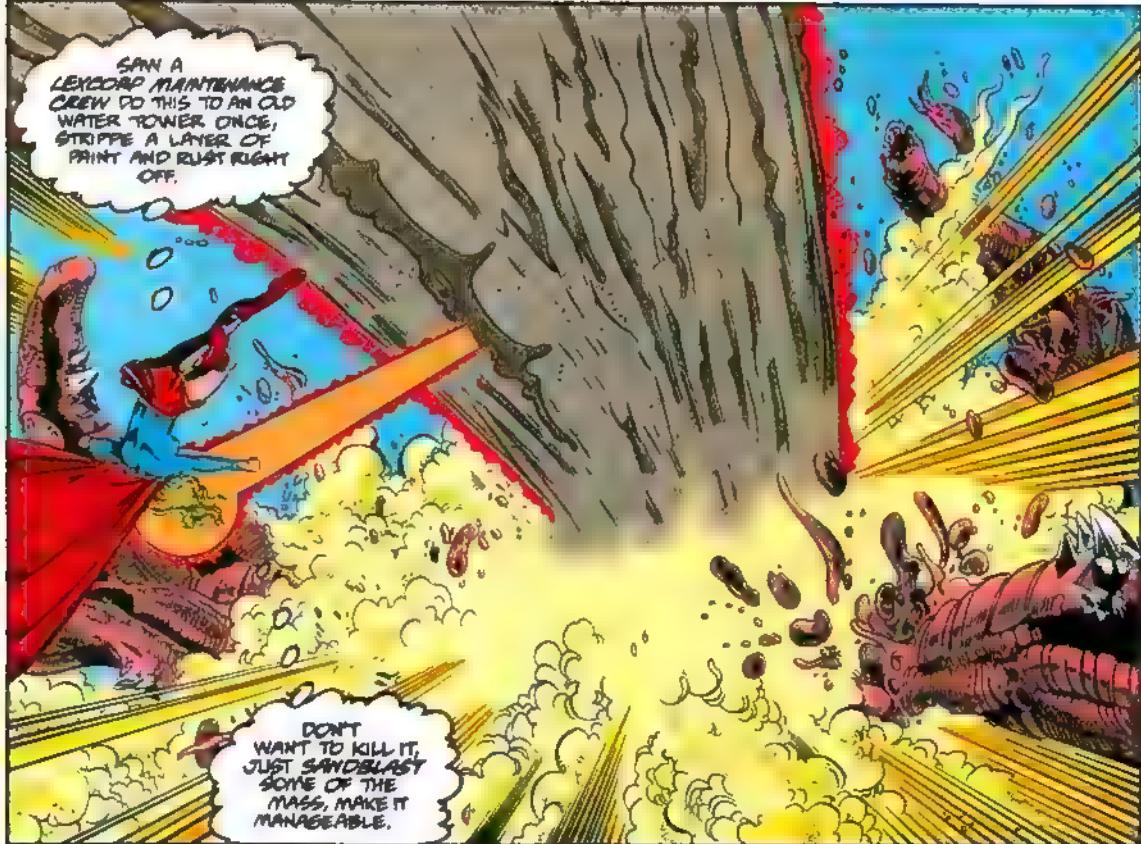
MOST PEOPLE HERE  
HAVE PROBABLY NEVER  
SEEN ANYBODY FLY—  
MUCH LESS BEEN  
ATTACKED BY A TEN-  
STORY GLOB OF  
WALKING ALIEN  
RUST!



BUT  
AT LEAST I  
THINK I'VE  
FIGURED OUT  
WHAT IT IS.



NOW  
TO SEE IF I  
CAN DO  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT  
IT.



-AND  
I THINK YOUR  
"LIVING RUST" THEORY  
HOLDS UP PRETTY WELL,  
SUPergirl. BONNA  
NEED SOME MAJOR  
STUDY, THOUGH.

SUPER  
YOU TRUST  
ME WITH  
THIS  
THING?

NOT IN THIS  
LIFETIME. SO...WHAT  
NOW?

FOR  
ME? SLEEP.  
AS IN "LOTS  
OF."



THINK  
I'D LET YOU  
LOOK AT IT  
IF I DIDN'T,  
HITCH?

SUPergirl!

THE  
MAYOR'S ON  
HIS WAY HERE  
TO ASK YOU TO OVER-  
SEE THE POST-FRAME  
CLEAN-UP PROJECT  
AND...SUPergirl?



REALLY  
TOP-  
NOTCH.

YEAH!  
SUPergirl's  
GOT A NEW  
HOME!

TOP-  
NOTCH  
JOB,  
SUPergirl!

AND YOU  
HAVE DONE  
SO MUCH  
FOR THIS  
CITY.

UH, MR. MAYOR...  
SIR I'M AFRAID  
THAT'S WHAT WE  
NEED TO TALK  
ABOUT.



AS MAYOR,  
IT'S MY HONOR TO  
GIVE YOU THIS SMALL  
TOKEN FOR ALL  
YOU'VE DONE.



FIRST OF ALL,  
I WANT TO STRESS  
HOW MUCH I LIKE  
IT HERE. REALLY.  
THAT'S WHY I CAME  
BACK.

BUT I'M  
AFRAID YOU'VE  
ALL BECOME TOO  
DEPENDENT ON ME...  
TO THE POINT WHERE  
YOU'VE ENDANGERED  
YOURSSELVES.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT...  
THE POLICE  
DEPARTMENT... THEY'VE  
ALL STOPPED  
WORKING THIS PAST  
WEEK... AND I CAN'T  
BE EVERYWHERE  
AT ONCE.

YOU'RE  
ALL VERY CAPABLE  
PEOPLE. YOU NEED  
TO RELY ON YOUR  
OWN STRENGTHS.  
I'LL BE GLAD TO  
HELP WHEN I  
CAN, BUT...

I COULDN'T  
AGREE WITH YOU  
MORE, SUPERGIRL.  
NOW, IF YOU'LL  
OPEN THE BOX,

OH.  
IT'S...  
IT'S...

A SIGNAL  
DEVICE! AND WITH  
THIS YOU'LL NEVER  
MISS A CRISIS—  
EVER!

THAT  
IS, IF YOU'LL  
ACCEPT THE MANTLE  
AS CHARLOTTE'S FIRST,  
HONORARY,  
COSTUMED  
GUARDIAN... WHEN  
YOU'RE VISITING,  
THAT IS.

AND THERE  
YOU HAVE IT, LADIES  
AND GENTLEMEN! A  
DAY'S WORK FOR THE  
GIRL OF STEEL, AND  
MAYBE A LITTLE LESSON  
FOR THE REST  
OF US.

PSYCHE!  
I... I  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO  
SAY...

THIS  
IS ALL SO  
SWEET.  
THANK YOU

WITH A  
SPECIAL THANKS TO  
TO SUPERGIRL—WE  
HOPE YOU COME BACK  
SOON—THIS IS CINTHIA  
DRUM, NEWS 9—  
SIGNING OFF.

THERE'S A  
KILLER IN OPAL  
CITY.

BUT WE'RE  
NOT IN OPAL  
CITY TODAY.

THE KILLER HAS  
A PORTER THROUGH  
WHICH HE SUMMONS  
A DEMON.

AND CENTRAL  
CITY WAS THE LAST  
PLACE THE KILLER  
AND HIS DEMON  
STAYED.

AND THAT'S  
WHERE WE  
ARE.

ALBERT BERNELL  
WAS THE LAST MAN IN  
TOWN TO SPEAK TO THE  
KILLER. HE HIRED HIM,  
IN FACT.

BERNELL HAD  
A FATHER, ONE  
OF THE WEALTHY  
KIND.

NOW ALBERT HAS THAT  
MONEY, AND THE MANSIONS  
AND WOMEN AND GUARDS.  
ALL THOSE WONDERFUL  
ACCESORIES.

THOUGH NOONE  
OR THIS IS DOING  
HIM MUCH GOOD  
AT PRESENT.

THE SHADOWY,  
SHADOWY MAN  
HAS ASKED HIS  
QUESTIONS AND  
GOTTEN HIS  
ANSWERS.

UNFORTUNATELY  
SOMETIMES  
SUCH A GUY  
CAN BE...

OVERLY  
RIGOROUS.





# INCIDENT IN AN OLD CHAUNT

IT IS A  
DARK ONE.

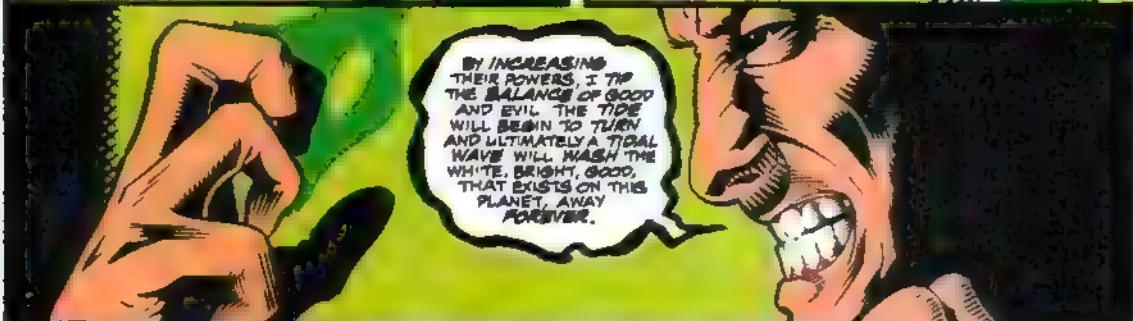
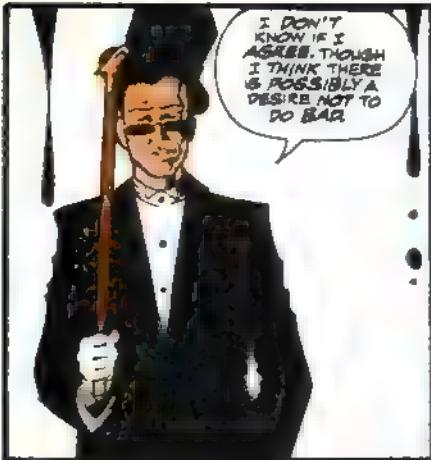


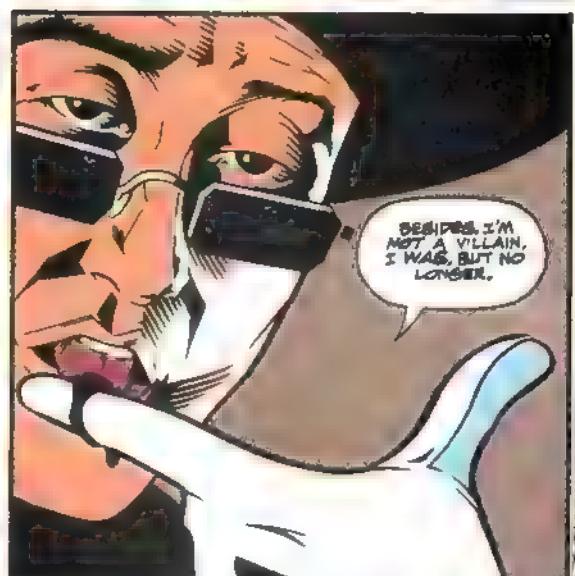
WRITER  
JAMES ROBINSON  
PENCILLER & INKER  
WADE VON  
GRAWBADGER  
COLORIST  
DEBBIE MCKEEVER  
LETTERER  
CHIS ELIOPoulos  
EDITOR  
CHUCK KIM

YOU  
HAVEN'T  
LOST YOUR  
MALICE,  
SHADE.









YOU DARE  
REFUSE ME?

TO DARE  
WOULD IMPLY  
THAT I FEARED  
YOU TO BEGIN  
WITH.

THERE ARE COUNTLESS  
GAUDY PIOTS OUT THERE,  
WHO COUNT THEIR LIVES  
IN TERMS OF TIME  
SERVED.

GO PEDDLE  
YOUR WARES WITH  
THEM.

YOU'LL  
RUE THIS  
DAY.

BUT IF I HAD  
A "TRIE" FOR EVERY  
TIME SOMEONE  
SAID THAT...

...I OWN  
PARIS.

I PROMISE,  
ONE DAY, YOUR  
WORSE NIGHT-  
MARE.

ALREADY  
HAD IT, OLD PIP.  
HOW DO YOU  
THINK I BECAME  
WHAT I AM?

NO.  
WORSE STILL.  
ONE DAY.





# DREAM A LITTLE DREAM

BY CHRIS  
CLAREMONT  
& ALAN  
DAVIS

SHE IS CALLED  
MAITRESSE

SHE IS ABSOLUTE RULER  
OF ALL SHE SURVEYS THE  
FORM AND SHAPE OF HER  
WORLD, AND EVERYTHING  
THAT LIVES UPON IT IS  
DETERMINED BY HER WILL.



WHICH IS WHY SHE CAN  
BE FORGIVEN A DOLLOP  
OF SURPRISE WHEN SHE  
SUDDENLY AWAKENS  
FROM A SOUND SLEEP.

TO NOT ONLY FIND  
THAT HER CITADEL  
HAS VANISHED

BUT THAT SHE  
HERSELF IS  
UNDER ATTACK.

MARK FARMER INKER  
PAT PRENTICE LETTERER  
GLORIA VASQUEZ COLORIST  
CHRIS EADES EDITOR

DARKSEID CREATED BY JACK KIRBY  
MAITRESSE CREATED BY CHRIS  
CLAREMONT & DWAYNE TURNER



FOR THE FIRST  
TIME SINCE HER  
DAUGHTER'S  
BIRTH

MAITRESSE  
FEELS TRUE  
PHYSICAL  
PAIN.

SHE TASTES THE  
HOT METALLIC  
COPPER OF HER  
OWN BLOOD.

AND REALIZES --  
ANOTHER SURPRISE --  
THAT IN THIS PLACE  
OF UTTER AND PRIMAL  
DESOLATION...

SHE COULD  
WELL DIE.

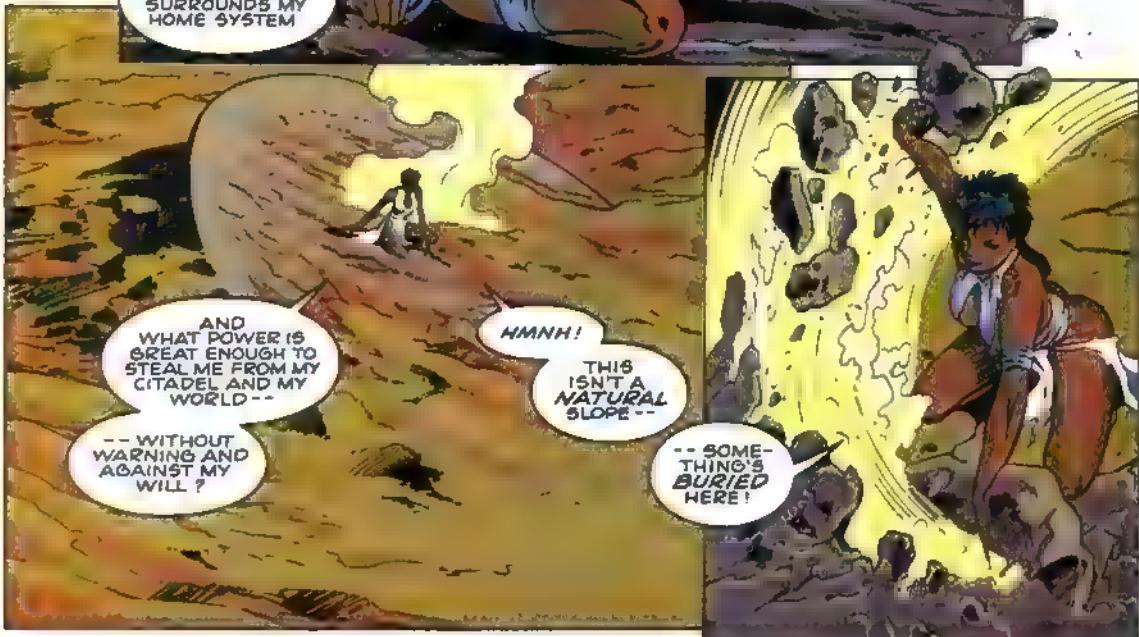
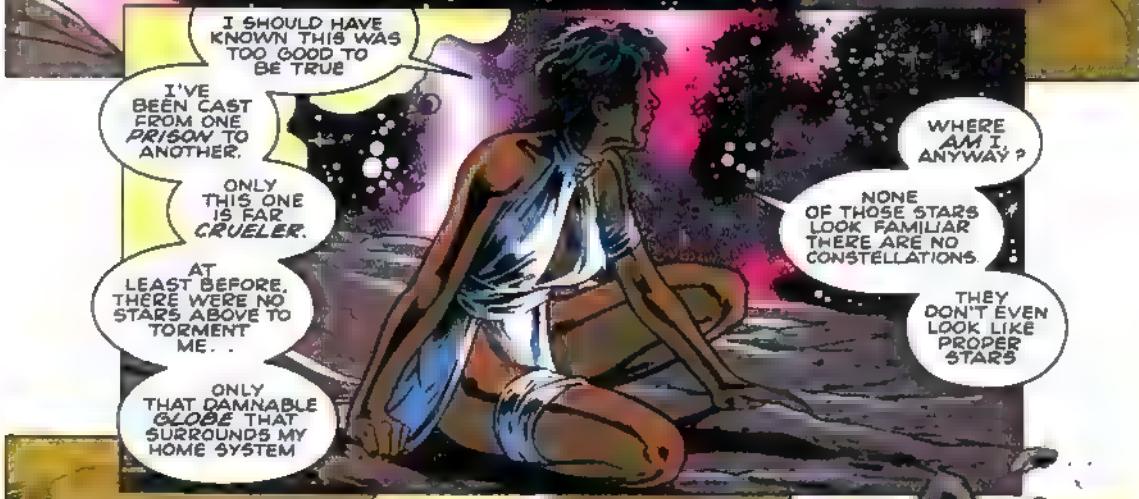
THANKFULLY,  
THE LOSS OF  
HER MENTAL  
ABILITIES

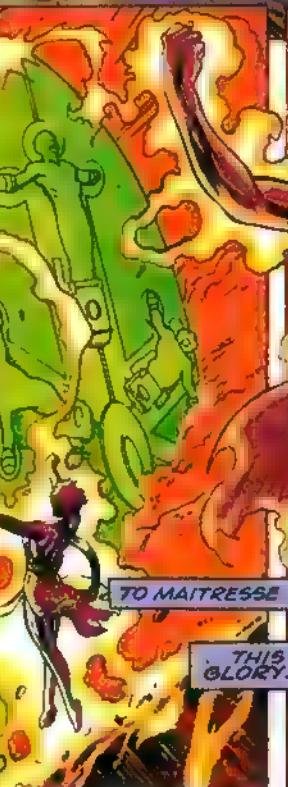
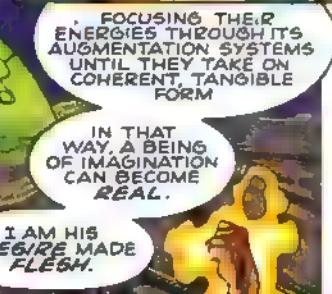
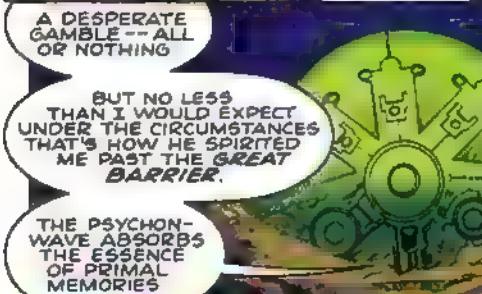
HAS NOT  
DIMINISHED IN  
THE SLIGHTEST...

HER EQUIV  
FORMIDABLE  
MARTIAL SKILLS.

KRAK!







YES!  
YES!  
YES!

DRAWING FURTHER SUSTENANCE FROM THE PSYCHON WAVE AMPLIFIER.

MAITRESSE SCYTHES A CUTTING BOLT ACROSS THE LANDSCAPE BEFORE HER

WHEN THAT DOESN'T WORK

AS YOU HAVE RESTORED ME OLD FRIEND

SO SHALL I GLADLY RETURN THE FAVOR!

TO SET HIM FREE WILL TAKE ALL MY NEW-WON POWER

BUT THAT WILL SEVER THE BONDS THAT ANCHOR ME TO THIS PLANE AND CAST ME BACK TO MY OWN PRISON

TO CLAIM MY OWN FREEDOM

I MUST BREAK AN AGE-OLD TRUST...

AND CONDEMN MY FRIEND

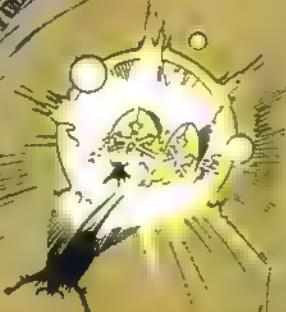
SHE'S  
TEMPTED.

DARKSEIDI!

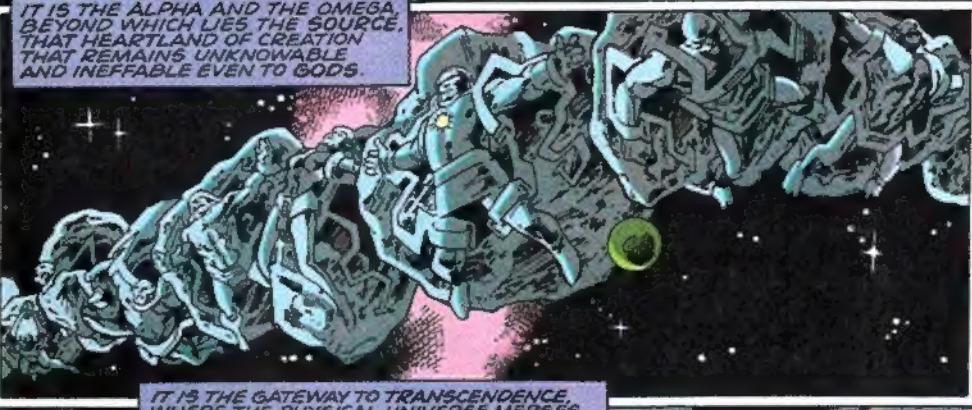


BUT THIS  
IS THE  
WALL.

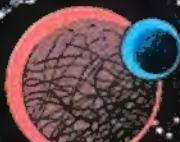
LOCATED FAR BEYOND THE  
PROMETHEAN GALAXY, IT  
STANDS AT THE END OF ALL  
THINGS -- WHERE THE  
LIGHTS SHE BEHELD IN THE  
SKY WERE NOT INDIVIDUAL  
STARS BUT WHOLE GALAXIES.



IT IS THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA,  
BEYOND WHICH LIES THE SOURCE,  
THAT HEARTLAND OF CREATION  
THAT REMAINS UNKNOWABLE  
AND INEFFABLE EVEN TO GODS.



IT IS THE GATEWAY TO TRANSCENDENCE,  
WHERE THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE MERGES  
WITH THE DOMAINS OF IMAGINATION AND  
THE SPIRIT. IT IS THE SPRINGBOARD TO  
INFINITY, WHERE ALL BECOMES POSSIBLE.



...AND WHERE NOT SO LONG AGO THE  
LORD OF DREAD APOKOLIPS TRIED TO  
BEND THE POWER OF THE SOURCE TO  
HIS OWN ENDS, AND THEREBY CLAIM  
DOMINION OVER THE ENTIRE COSMOS.



FOR THAT ULTIMATE HUBRIS, HE LIKE  
THE LEGENDARY PROMETHEAN GIANTS  
OF ANTIQUITY, PAID THE ULTIMATE  
PRICE AND JOINED THEM UPON THE  
WALL, TO REMAIN IMPRISONED FOR  
THE WHOLE OF ETERNITY.



UNLIKE THEM,  
HE HAS A  
CHAMPION.

SHE KNOWS HOW OTHERS JUDGE HIM. THIS CREATURE OF SUPREME AMBITION AND ARROGANCE THAT SUCH EVIL IS BEST LEFT IN CHAINS.

IT MAY WELL BE TRUE.

SHE'S HEARD MUCH THE SAME SAID OF HER, BY HER OWN CHILD.

IT IS HER CODE OF HONOR, PERSONAL, PRIVATE, EXCLUSIVE.

BUT HONOR NONTHELESS.



BUT SHE HAS ALSO COME TO LEARN, OVER THE COURSE OF HER LIFETIME, THE COST OF A HEART'S DESIRE, EVEN ONE THAT APPEARS MOST NOBLE.

AND LEARNED IN THE BARGAIN, THERE IS A LINE SHE WILL NOT CROSS, A PRICE SHE WILL NOT PAY.

FOR  
NEAL POZNER

IN THAT MOST HALLOWED AND ANCIENT PLACE, AT THAT MOMENT, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HER THAT SHE REMAIN FAITHFUL TO IT.

THE DEED IS DONE, A FRIEND SAVED, OLD OBLIGATIONS FULFILLED.

AS FOR THE REST, SHE'LL LEAVE IT WHERE IT BELONGS...

IN THE HANDS OF FATE.

# SHOWCASE CASE STUDIES

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Dear Jason,

With issue #8 having just hit the stands, we're now done with two-thirds of the 1995 edition of SHOWCASE. So far, it has definitely been an above-average experience, and in that light, I can only look forward to the final four installments.

As for this very issue's Installments, the second part of the Mongul feature was perhaps an even more interesting read than the first chapter of this story already was. While that first part served more as an introduction to the situation, this time around Mongul wasn't taking no crap from nobody, claiming a whole world and its entire populace as his servants. He was the one to decide about life and death, and about the when, where, and how. His word was the law people would have to live by. If not, they die. Simple as that.

This was turning out to be a fine piece of work, but the twist came when Mongul faced a virus killing his servants. This surely made the tale even more intriguing than it already had been, but on that final page, where he finds two survivors, the tingles were truly climbing up my very spine in sheer horror. Definitely one helluva piece of work here. Wow!

The Arsenal feature was kinda fun, actually much to my initial expectations. I mean, I like the guy over at the Titans, and his past makes him quite an intriguing and complex character, but solo adventures? I didn't think so. Well, that opinion needs fixing, because I actually loved this short story here. Okay, it was simple, straightforward and not truly novel in its approach, but it's the warm, feel-good ending that really counts. And besides, the artwork by David Zimmermann truly surprised me as well, its clear lines giving the tale much depth.

Finally, The Spectre. Ah yes. Although I've only just started collecting his own monthly mag, I feel as though I've been reading his adventures since day one. This issue's installment about the green and white not-quite hero only enhanced that feeling as John Ostrander once more showcased his superb talents (that's probably why you guys named this book SHOWCASE, right?).

The Spectre's unexpected trip inside Genevieve's mind, experiencing

everything she has ever felt since she became a vampire, truly was a very intriguing plot twist, and it has set the stage for a storyline that will run in the Spectre's own book. What can I say to that, other than: sounds absolutely great to me!

Yes, this was one of those issues again. Nothing but a straight A! Well done, fellas.

Olav Beemer  
The Netherlands

**Well, thanks for the good grade, Olav. By now you've seen the final four installments, and I hope you're just as happy. Did you catch that those two survivors at the end are actually Mongul's children? So now we know whatever happens to Mongul, those two tykes are out there somewhere...**

\*\*\*

Dear Jason,

I'll skip the obligatory Hamlet joke and move right on to this: Could anybody out there recognize Dan Jurgens as this month's cover penciller on SHOWCASE '95? Talk about a face that only a mother could love (Mongul, that is, not Dan). Mongul always seemed to be a second-rate Darkseid to me, with their similar dreams of grandeur (just witness the statue on page 4), not to mention their use of fear.

But this issue has highlighted a fundamental difference between the two: while Darkseid would never dream of getting his own hands dirty, Mongul would not have it any other way. And while Darkseid is becoming a bit stale as a character, I actually find myself rooting for Mongul... I even wish he had succeeded in building a new Warworld. The art, as with last issue, was perfectly crisp and suitable for the story.

Having collected only the SUPERMAN line over the past couple of years, I've been out of the loop in regard to the rest of the DC Universe. In fact it wasn't until I read the Cheshire comment on page 28 that I finally realized who Arsenal actually was. And for some strange reason, I thought Checkmate was defunct... Why I read SHOWCASE, reason #18: updates. The story itself was rather

simple, however, with art to back it up. David Zimmermann and Fred Fredericks made me feel like I was reading an Archie comic at times.

In "Sunken Beauty," John Ostrander wrote a very convincing argument for the continued existence of vampires. And for the first time in my comics-reading experience, the hero's counterargument failed to justify the actions taken against solid vampire (nice try, Spectre). And I see Tom Mandrake has found a character he truly belongs on with some very Gene-Colan-like art. But wait—page 37, last panel: is that Firestorm?

Chris Hines  
Truro, NS

**Alas, poor Chris Hines, we knew him... Well, it looks like we know him better than he knows Firestorm, anyway. No, that was just the Spectre in his orange justice-rendering mode, but for more on Firestorm, check out the pages of EXTREME JUSTICE!**

\*\*\*

Dear Case Studies,

I must admit that with the recent GREEN LANTERN and FLASH appearances, I thought the Mongul story (which concluded this issue) might be a step or two in the direction of overkill (no pun intended). I was wrong—the conclusion of this tale left me with many questions about our yellow-skinned tyrant, which in itself is a good sign that Mongul hasn't been overused.

The questions I mentioned center around Mongul's children and how he will manage to raise them and how long it will take for them to mature. It is obvious from his speech that Mongul is well-educated, but does this education extend to child-rearing? Will the children tend towards Mongul's malevolence? Will they receive an education themselves or will Mongul prefer to keep them as stupid as possible? I must admit

that I was appalled by Mongul's savagery (as intended), but I found his perception of events almost incomprehensible. The perfect example of this is the thoughts Mongul displays about what a waste all the virus-induced deaths were and how sickening the smell of burning flesh was (compared to, say, crusted heads?)

"Lian's Present" was an interesting story, but frankly I'm not sure I see the point of it all. Don't get me wrong—the narrative was clear enough, but why Arsenal for this rescue? Despite my misgivings, I must admit that being allowed inside Roy's head to see what he's thinking of a mission was interesting.

"Sunken Beauty" was an excellent read, as most Spectre tales are. Again I found myself surprised by the turn of events in this story (as in the others), although in this case, the surprise was more profound. The Spectre appears to have been profoundly lacking in essential information here—a shortcoming that allowed Genevieve Dumond to easily ensnare and torment him. Something equally confusing was the way the Spectre freed himself, as though he could've done so at any time. Perhaps he chose to endure the torment to more clearly judge the facts as they were? Nice job overall — kudos all 'round!!

Gregory Kenfield  
Harrison Township, MI

**Mongul's children are actually enrolled right now, as I write this, in one of the most prestigious institutions in space. So watch out if you see two bald yellow tykes; don't mess with them!**

**All right, that's all we got for you in '95!**

Jason Hernandez-Rosenblatt  
—DC's resident bald yellow tyke



*That may be all for '95, but we've got more coming at you in '96...*

**SHOWCASE '96 #1** features part one of a two-part story featuring Steel and Guy Gardner: Warrior. More is revealed about their shared past as they take on Sledge and a mystery man who has been plaguing Warrior's past in a story by Beau Smith, Sergio Cariello and Rob Leigh. Also see Terrible Turpin in a knock-down drag-out fight with a demon in a tale of the Metropolis S.C.U. brought to you by Scot Ciencin and Roger Robinson. And last, but not least, where has Aquafish been all this time? Find out in a tidal wave of a story by Phil Jimenez!